

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-32 are cancelled.

33. (New) A medium for detecting vancomycin-resistant Enterococci in a sample from a rectal swab, peri-rectal swab, or stool sample, comprising:

vancomycin in an amount sufficient to suppress the growth of vancomycin sensitive Enterococci;

a first nutrient indicator which is a substrate for a first bacterial enzyme and provides first detectable signal when cleaved by the first bacterial enzyme;

a second nutrient indicator which is a substrate for a second bacterial enzyme and provides a second detectable signal when cleaved by the second bacterial enzyme, wherein the second detectable signal is distinct from the first detectable signal;

an effective amount of one or more selective agents active to prevent or inhibit the growth of microorganisms other than Enterococci.

34. (New) The medium of claim 33 wherein the first nutrient indicator is a substrate for glucosidase.

35. (New) The medium of claim 33 wherein the second nutrient indicator is a substrate for pyrrolidonyl arylamidase.

36. (New) The medium of claim 34 wherein the first nutrient indicator is o-nitrophenyl- β -D-glucopyranoside.

37. (New) The medium of claim 35 further comprising one or more inducers of enzyme activity for β -glucosidase and/or pyrrolidonyl arylamidase.

38. (New) The medium of claim 37 wherein the one or more inducers of enzyme activity are selected from the group consisting of: isopropyl- β -D-thiogalactoside (IPTG), ethyl- β -D-thioglucoside, L-pyroglutamamide, L-pyroglutamic acid, and pyroglutamic acid penta-chlorophenyl ester.
39. (New) The medium of claim 33 wherein the one or more selective agents are selected from the group consisting of: amikacin sulfate, polymyxin B, bacitracin, clindamycin, cefotaxime, amphotericin B, sodium azide, thallium acetate, nalixidic acid, enoxacin, cinoxacin, ofloxacin, norfloxacin, cefotaxime, gentamycin, neomycin, polymyxin B, colistin, and bile salts.
40. (New) A medium for detecting vancomycin-resistant Enterococci comprising vancomycin in an amount sufficient to suppress the growth of vancomycin sensitive Enterococci;
a first nutrient indicator which is a substrate for a first bacterial enzyme and provides a first detectable signal when cleaved by the first bacterial enzyme;
a second nutrient indicator which is a substrate for a second bacterial enzyme and provides a second detectable signal when cleaved by the second bacterial enzyme, wherein the second detectable signal is distinct from the first detectable signal;
an effective amount of one or more selective agents active to prevent or inhibit the growth of microorganisms other than Enterococci.
41. (New) The medium of claim 40 wherein the first nutrient indicator produces a color in the visual range when cleaved by an enzyme and the second nutrient indicator produces a fluorescent molecule when cleaved by an enzyme.
42. (New) The medium of claim 41 wherein the first nutrient indicator is a substrate for β -glucosidase.

43. (New) The medium of claim 41 wherein the second nutrient indicator is a substrate for pyrrolidonyl arylamidase.
44. (New) The medium of claim 42 wherein the first nutrient indicator is o-nitrophenyl- β -D-glucopyranoside.
45. (New) The medium of claim 43 further comprising one or more inducers of enzyme activity for β -glucosidase and/or pyrrolidonylaryl arylamidase.
46. (New) The medium of claim 42 wherein the one or more inducers of enzyme activity are selected from the group consisting of: isopropyl- β -D-thiogalactoside (IPTG), ethyl- β -D-thiogluconide, L-pyroglutamamide, L-pyroglutamic acid, and pyroglutamic acid penta-chlorophenyl ester.
47. (New) The medium of claim 40 wherein the one or more selective agents are selected from the group consisting of: amikacin sulfate, polymyxin B., bacitracin, clindamycin, ceftaxime, amphotericin B, sodium azide, thallium acetate, nalixidic acid, enoxacin, cinoxacin, ofloxacin, norfloxacin, cefotaxime, gentamycin, neomycin, polymyxin B, colistin and bile salts.